

	California Public Utilities Commission <i>Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program</i>
	Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects Compliance Status Report: 012 March 5, 2017

SUMMARY

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the mitigation measures set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Cleveland National Forest Power Line Replacement Projects. The CPUC has established a third-party monitoring program and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP) to ensure that measures approved in the FEIR/FEIS to mitigate or avoid impacts are implemented in the field. This MMCRP status report is intended to provide a description of construction activities on the project, a summary of site inspections conducted by the CPUC's third-party monitors, the compliance status of mitigation measures required by the MMCRP, and anticipated construction activities. Photos of site observations are included in Attachment A of this report. A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTP) and Minor Project Refinement Requests (MPRRs) are provided in Attachments B and C, respectively.

This compliance status report covers construction activities from February 20 through March 5, 2017.

MITIGATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING

Site Inspections/Mitigation Monitoring

A CPUC third-party environmental compliance monitor conducted site observations in areas under active construction, which included Transmission Lines (TL) 625B and 629E and Staging Yards. Areas of active and inactive construction were observed to verify implementation of the mitigation measures stipulated in the project's MMCRP. Observations were documented using site inspection forms, and applicable applicant proposed measures (APMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) were reviewed in the field.

Implementation Actions

TL 625B

During this reporting period, construction activities observed along TL625B included clearing vegetation, maintaining water bars and energy dissipation devices, widening gate posts at the entrance to

approved access roads, setting up and breaking down drill sites, drilling and installing foundation bars for micropile foundations (See Photo 1—Attachment A), conducting helicopter external load operations in Japatul Spur Staging Yard and along the project alignment to transport drilling equipment to and from work sites for micropile foundations, and establishing the Sweetwater Staging and Fly Yard.

During earthwork (i.e. water bar grading) water trucks were utilized to spray water in the work area to prevent dust emissions in accordance with APM AIR-02. Vehicles traveling along project approved access roads were observed complying with the 15 mph speed limit to reduce dust in accordance with APM AIR-03 and MM BIO-24.

Biological monitors were observed clearing sites prior to construction work, inspecting sites throughout the day, and monitoring vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities in accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22. Construction crews were observed working within delineated workspaces in accordance with MM BIO-1, and ESA signs were observed along the alignment to notify construction personnel of special status plants and butterfly host plant species outside the work limits in accordance with MM BIO-13, MM BIO-14, and MM BIO-16. Construction crews were observed using trash bags to collect trash to be removed from sites daily in accordance with MM BIO-26. In accordance with MM BIO-28 and the Nesting Bird Management Plan, two nesting bird buffers were observed near Z272867 that were designated as “drive through only,” meaning no work is allowed within buffer, and an avian biologist was observed monitoring nesting activity at the nests and ensuring that construction crews complied with buffers (See Photo 2—Attachment A).

Archeological and Native American monitors were observed monitoring construction activities in work areas within the vicinity of previously recorded cultural resources and in areas identified as having a high potential to contain buried deposits in accordance with MM CUL-1, MM CUL-3, and APM CUL-04. Cultural ESA fencing was observed around the perimeter of workspaces and along the boundaries of access roads in accordance with Historic Properties Management Plan. At required pole sites archeological and Native American monitors were observed inspecting disturbed soils while a construction crew conducted maintenance grading of waterbars (See Photo 3—Attachment A).

Fire patrols were observed monitoring construction activity along the project alignment, and construction crews were observed carrying the required activity-specific fire suppression equipment and complying with the Construction Fire Prevention/Protection Plan (MM FF-1).

In accordance with MM PHS-2 and the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), construction crews were observed implementing spill prevention Best Management Practices (BMPs) including the use of drip pans beneath staged equipment, staging spill kits at work sites, and hazardous materials storage BMPs, including the use of secondary containment beneath hazardous materials in the Japatul Spur Staging Yard.

Construction crews were observed maintaining erosion control BMP, including waterbars and energy dissipation devices, in accordance with the project Erosion Control Plan (ECP) and SWPPP (MM HYD-1, MM BIO-7, and APM HYD-09). To prevent sediment trackout onto Japatul Spur Road, a rock apron

and rattle plates remain at the point of ingress and egress at Japatul Spur Staging Yard and were free of debris at the time of observation. The CPUC EM notified the project LEI of sediment accumulation behind a fiber roll at Pole Z135624, which was subsequently addressed by the LEI by re-securing the fiber roll and sediment removed.

In accordance with the Aviation Safety Plan and MM PHS-5, the designated area for helicopter landing and staging in the Japatul Spur Staging Yard remains delineated, with a ground crew member on-site to ensure safety of all construction personnel in the area. In accordance with APM TRANS-02, traffic control flag persons were observed setting up one-way traffic zones when construction activity occurred near Japatul Road, and temporarily stopping traffic when helicopter external load operations crossed over Japatul Road.

During the establishment of the approved Sweetwater Staging and Fly Yard, opaque mesh screening material was installed around the perimeter of the yard to keep construction activities as inconspicuous as possible in accordance with APM VIS-02.

TL 629E

During this reporting period, construction crews were observed grouting for micropile foundations; staging, assembling and installing steel poles (See Photo 4—Attachment A); conducting overhead line work, including wire stringing and transfer, and installing insulators; and clearing vegetation at stringing sites (See Photo 5—Attachment A).

To prevent dust emissions, construction crews were observed complying with the project speed limit of 15 mph on unpaved access roads in accordance with APM AIR-03 and MM BIO-24, and utilizing a street sweeper along Old Highway 80 to clear any project-related trackout.

Biological monitors were observed monitoring vegetation clearing, and spot checking construction activities along the project alignment in accordance with MM BIO-3 and MM BIO-22. An approved arroyo toad biologist was present for construction activities at Pole Z40577 to monitor and ensure the exclusionary fence surrounding the site remained functional in accordance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement. Excavated pole sites along the alignment were observed being securely covered and inspected to prevent wildlife entrapment in accordance with MM BIO-23. Stockpiled topsoil salvage at pole sites continued to be secured in accordance with the Habitat Restoration Plan (MM BIO-4).

Fire patrols were observed monitoring work activities along the project alignment, and construction crews were observed carrying the required activity-specific fire tools and equipment (a 5 gallon backpack pump, round point shovel, Pulaski, and 2A10BC fire extinguisher) in accordance with the CFPPP.

In accordance with MM PHS-2 and the project SWPPP, construction crews were observed implementing spill prevention BMP's such as staging spill kits at work sites and placing drip pans

beneath staged equipment, and hazardous materials storage BMPs such as the use of secondary containment beneath hazardous waste barrels and fuel storage tanks at Anderson Staging Yard.

In accordance with the ECP and SWPPP, continued implementation of erosion and sediment control BMPs was observed during this reporting period. Rock aprons and rattle plates and use of street sweepers were observed at Anderson Staging Yard, Kitchen Creek Staging Yard, and the access road to Pole Z44173 off La Posta Road to ensure project-related sediment was clear on paved roadways. Perimeter controls at pole replacement work sites and staging yards (i.e. fiber rolls and silt fencing) were observed in good condition. At Pole Z40589, a construction crew was observed repairing silt fencing where it was said to have been knocked down by cattle.

In accordance with MM-REC-2, gates used to access National Forest System lands were kept locked while construction activity occurred (See Photo 6—Attachment A).

Mitigation Measure Tracking

Mitigation measures applicable to the construction activities were verified in the field and documented in the CPUC's mitigation measure tracking database. A complete list of mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures is included in the FEIR/EIS in the Decision for the Power Line Replacement Projects, as adopted by the CPUC on May 26, 2016 (Decision D.16-05-038) and the Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Program (MMCRP).

Compliance Status

CPUC third-party environmental monitors observed overall compliance with mitigation measures throughout the reporting period.

On February 24th, a CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) observed a wire puller used for wire stringing operations staged off an existing, non-project related road to the south of Pole Z44204 on TL629E. The road services an existing SDG&E distribution line that runs perpendicular to TL629E. Drive and crush impacts to vegetation were noted by the CPUC EM as a result of equipment going off-road. An SDG&E biological monitor reviewed the location, and determined that no sensitive biological resources were impacted. The area was also inspected by an SDG&E cultural monitor and a Native American monitor and determined that no cultural resources were impacted. The CPUC recorded this as a Level 1 Minor Deviation with MM BIO-1, which requires that all construction and construction related activity is limited to approved workspaces.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS

SDG&E began construction activities associated with NTP-1 on September 23, 2016. All project activities are scheduled to be complete by 2020.

TL 625B

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; cleared vegetation; maintained access roads; established the Sweetwater Staging and Fly Yard; conducted drilling and grouting activities for micropile foundations; conducted overhead line work, which included grounding and spreading conductors; and maintained waterbars. The estimated completion date is June 2017. Approximately 10% complete.

TL 629E

During this reporting period, construction crews installed and maintained erosion control BMPs; conducted grouting activities for micropile foundations; conducted pole installation work, which included assembling, installing, and staging poles; conducted overhead line work, which included stringing and sagging conductors, and installing insulators; and transferred wires, which included unclipping wires, installing double socks, hanging travelers, and adding wires. The estimated completion date is May 2017. Approximately 80% complete.

ATTACHMENT A Photos



Photo 1: A construction crew observed drilling micropile foundation holes at Pole Z272891 (TL 625B), where helicopter external load operations were used to transport drilling equipment and materials to and from the site.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 2: During vegetation clearing at Pole Z272867 (TL 625B), an avian biologist was observed monitoring an active bird nest in the vicinity of the work area, and ensuring the implementation of a nesting bird buffer in accordance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan (MM BIO-28).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 3: During waterbar grading and energy dissipater device maintenance, an archeological monitor and Native American monitor were observed inspecting disturbed soils in accordance with MM CUL-1, MM CUL-3, and APM CUL-04.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 4: A construction crew observed setting a steel replacement pole at Pole Z44158 (TL 629E).

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 5: A construction crew observed clearing vegetation at Stringing Site 18 (TL 629E). The activity was confined to the approved and delineated workspace in accordance with the NTP and MM BIO-1.

ATTACHMENT A (Continued)



Photo 6: In accordance with MM REC-2, a gate used to access Poles Z44171 to Z44162 (TL 629E) was observed locked while construction activity occurred on USFS- managed land.

ATTACHMENT B Notices to Proceed

NTP No.	Date Issued	Description	Conditions Included (Y/N)
CPUC - 001	September 21, 2016, updated October 31, 2016	Construction activities associated with TL 625B and TL 629E	Y

ATTACHMENT C

Minor Project Refinement Request

Minor Project Refinement Request No.	Submitted	Description	Status	Approval
001	10/5/16, Revised 10/18/16	Request for Modifications to the Anderson, Merrigan and Japatul Spur Staging Yards	Approved	10/21/16
002	2/21/16	Modifications to TL 625B and TL 629E	Approved, with Conditions	2/10/17